

AT A GLANCE: Black Children in Washington State

Taken from the Washington State Racial Disproportionality Advisory Committee Report

Racial disproportionality exists for Black children in the Washington State Child Welfare System.

Black children are almost twice as likely to be referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) as opposed to White children.

The greatest disproportionality for Black children occurs when:

- The initial referral to CPS is made.
- A child is in care for over two years.

In 2004, mandated reporters submitted about 60 percent of all referrals to CPS. 80 percent of children removed from home were referred by mandated reporters.

Disproportionality is consistently greater for mandated reporters such as health care workers, educators, police officers and court officials. But it is observed even among non-mandatory reporters who are most often relatives, friends or neighbors.

Compared with White children referred to CPS in 2004, after referrals:

- Black children were 1.2 times more likely to be removed from home.
- Black children were 1.5 times more likely to remain in care for over two years.

After referral, when compared to White children Black children are:

- More likely to have a referral accepted.
- As likely to reunify with parents within two years.
- Less likely to be adopted within two years.

In 2004, 88 percent of Black children in foster care were living in single-parent homes at the time of referral to CPS.

Little of the disproportionality for Black children can be explained by statistically controlling for poverty, family structure, and case characteristics.

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This information is based on Children's Administration data from 2004.

This report can be found at <http://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/pubs/disproportionReport.asp>

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